



# Interim Forest Management Plan

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## Property Identifiers

Property Name:

**Middle Eau Claire Lake Public Access and Pickerel Lake Public Access**

Property Designation or Type: **Public Boat Access**

DNR Property Code(s) (DNR Prop Code Number) **Unknown**

Forestry Property Code(s): **404, Compartments 4 (Pickerel Lake Public Access) and 5 (Middle Eau Claire Lake Public Access)**

Property Location - County(ies): **Bayfield**

Property Acreage: **Middle Eau Claire Lake – 55  
Pickerel Lake - 5**

Master Plan Date: **N/A**  
(if property has one)

Property Manager: **Don Slattery**

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## Property Assessment

The following should be considered during the property assessment:

A. Ecological Landscape description and property context

These properties occur within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape. Both properties are located in areas that are dominated by privately owned lands.

B. General property description – management, adjacent land uses, topography, soils, etc.

These properties are managed primarily for public boat access and development consists of an access road, parking area, launch ramp, and boarding pier. Adjacent land is privately owned and mostly developed for housing. Soils consist of sandy loams, sands, and silts, with the exception of organic soils, peats, and mucks in poorly drained lowlands.

C. Current forest types, size classes and successional stages

Aspen—15 acres (25%)  
White Pine—6 acres (10%)  
Tamarack—4 acres (7%)  
Keg-lowland grass—31 acres (51%)  
LM-lake minor—4 acres (7%)



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- D. NHI: Endangered, threatened, Special Concern species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

The NHI database will be screened prior to any management activities being planned.

- E. Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA),

These properties are not located within any Conservation Opportunity Areas

- F. Significant cultural or archeological features

None

- G. Invasive species

Aquatic - Banded Mystery Snail, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Narrow-leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), Rusty Crayfish

- H. Existing State Natural Areas (SNA) designations/natural community types limited in the landscape

There are no SNA or other special management designations on these properties.

- I. Primary public uses (recreation)

Primarily used for public boat access, with high use occurring during open water season, and moderate use in winter months for ice fishing. There is limited use of backlands for hunting and trapping.

- J. Biotic Inventory Status

Biotic Inventory has not been completed

- K. Deferral/consultation area designations

None have been designated

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## IFMP components

### **Management Objectives:** (Outline primary forest management objectives):

Throughout the property, manage stand conditions that exhibit vigorous forest health characteristics to promote public safety and discourage high risk trees impacting the public access points to Pickerel and Middle Eau Claire Lake. Water quality is important on these properties. Water quality Best Management Practices (BMP's) for forestry will be utilized for all timber sales. Establish BMP zones along shorelines of both lakes, remove only high risk trees that pose a threat to public safety in and around boat launch areas.



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Stands of Aspen, White Pine, and Tamarack will be managed using timber harvests to promote natural cover types that are currently present and encourage a healthy and vigorous forest condition. The initial timber harvests are needed to reach the property objectives sooner.

Presently some areas are in less than ideal status for growth and vigor that affects overall stand health. Apply appropriate silvicultural systems when conducting timber management activities.

**Property Prescriptions** (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives)

Strong consideration should be given to stand health and vigor to promote public safety at the boat launch/parking areas at both sites.

**Aspen** – Aspen stands at both properties will be harvested through coppice regeneration systems. This will regenerate these stands to promote young forest and mitigate concerns of high risk over-mature trees falling in and around the boat launch/parking areas. Green tree retention will be utilized in these stands while also focusing on snag and den/cavity tree retention in portions away from the boat launch/parking areas. Retention will be concentrated near lake shores and wetland areas where possible.

**White Pine** – Conduct periodic thinning to improve health and vigor of this stand. High risk tree removal in proximity to the boat launch/parking area of Middle Eau Claire Lake is a high priority. The release of any present understory white pine should also be evaluated to diversify the age composition of the stand.

**Tamarack** – This stand at Middle Eau Claire Lake Public Access is healthy and growing well at this time, it will be monitored for forest health concerns and assessed if conditions warrant. The next timber management activity should be assessed around the year 2048.

**Keg (lowland grass)** – This area at Middle Eau Claire Lake Public Access will regenerate on its own. There is a stream running through the stand that is important for water quality and wildlife habitat. This area will be monitored for invasive species and appropriate action will be taken. Timber activities will buffer this area utilizing forestry BMP's.

**LM (lake minor)** – This area at Middle Eau Claire Lake Public Access consists of one pond and a portion of Middle Eau Claire Lake. These water bodies are important for water quality and wildlife habitat. Timber activities will buffer this area utilizing forestry BMP's.

Summary of Public Involvement and Comments Received

Maps (Optional)

- a. Property Boundary and ownership Maps
- b. Forest Cover Type Maps



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**PREPARED BY:**

  
Property Manager

  
Date

**APPROVED:**

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Area Program Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**REVIEWED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Forester

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Ecologist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date